FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 9, 1963

EARL WILLIAM VANIDESTINE, Menasha Hotel, Menasha, Wisconsin, employed as used car salesman at Turley Pontiac Used Car Lot, Neenah, Wisconsin, advised that he is the son of CLARENCE VANIDESTINE, Route 1, Peshtigo, Wisconsin, was born Door County, Wisconsin August 16, 1937. He served in the U.S. Marines from September 19, 1955 to August 31, 1958 and from December 10, 1958 until July, 1963 under serial number 1542413, and he is medically retired as of July, 1963 with the rank of Lance Corporal and receiving half-pay. He stated that when he re-enlisted in December, 1958 he was assigned to the Marine Corps Air Facility at Santa Ana, California and was a member of Marine Air Control Squadron #4 there from January, 1959 to about July, 1959 after which he was transferred to Squadron #9 at Santa Ana. He stated he went overseas to Japan in September, 1960 with this Squadron. He stated the Squadron returned to the U.S. in October, 1961 and he returned in November, 1961 to Balboa Hospital, San Diego, that he had been hospitalized in Japan as a result of an injury in which he suffered a broken blood vessel in the brain in July or August, 1961. He was released from the Hospital in November, 1961 and was assigned to Hdq. and Hdq. Squadron #3, El Toro until March, 1962. He was then hospitalized at Camp Pendleton Hospital because of one of three attempts he made at suicide while in service, and from there was transferred to the U.S. Naval Hospital at Oakland, California where he remained until June, 1962 after which he was sent to Treasure Island. He went AWOL from there in August, 1962 and was apprehended in November, 1962 and taken to Camp Pendleton Hospital and assigned to the El Toro base. He went AWOL from the Hospital December 22, 1962 and was apprehended in January, 1963 at Long Beach. He was returned to the Camp Pendleton Hospital for a period of about three weeks and then returned to the El Toro base but hospitalized again in February, 1963 at the U.S. Naval Hospital, San Diego after which he was transferred again to the Oakland Hospital and finally medically retired from there in July, 1963. He stated his hospitalization in 1962 and 1963 was for psychiatric reasons.

He stated that when he heard about LEE HARVEY OSWALD assassinating the President he made a remark to his employer that he had known OSWALD in the Marine Corps. On the following Monday he was interviewed by a reporter for the Appleton Post-Crescent and he furnished information to him as to what he knew about OSWALD. He stated that the article written by the reporter indicated that

On 12/6/63 at Neenah, Wisconsin File # MI 62-1173

by SAs JOHN D. O'CONNELL & JAMES H. BREWSTER/lmp Date dictated 12/6/63

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he was personally acquainted with OSWALD and that this is not the case as he recalls no conversation with OSWALD at any time and recalls hearing no statements by OSWALD. He denied that he had told the reporter that he had been a warrant officer when he retired from the Marines and stated that he had actually told him he was being considered for such a rating before he suffered an injury which resulted in his retirement, and that the article in describing him as a warrant officer was in error.

He stated that the article quoted him as stating OSWALD was always complaining and saying that he was going to Russia, that he hated the United States and the Marines, and that "some of the fellows" had told him that OSWALD said he was going to turn over confidential information when he got to Russia. He stated the article states a Marine from New Orleans, when OSWALD was there, talked a lot about him and how he hated the United States and read Communist literature. He stated that he has no personal knowledge as to any of these matters as the only personal contact he recalls having with OSWALD was once, probably in the summer of 1959 when he was in charge of a work detail to load a truck and OSWALD was a member of the detail, working under his supervision for about a half hour. He stated that while he recalled all members of the detail were complaining he can't specifically recall any statements by OSWALD. He stated that he believes he was aware of OSWALD from about April, 1959 as a member of Squadron 9 and that he was a fellow member of that Squadron with OSWALD from about July, 1959 until whenever OSWALD left the Squadron which he believes was about September, 1959.

He stated that he cannot state for certain what, if any, discussion of OSWALD he heard prior to the time that OSWALD left the Marines and went to Russia and an article concerning this appeared in a local Santa Ana newspaper. He stated that after this article appeared in the paper there was a lot of discussion of OSWALD and there was joking among members of the Squadron that if you wanted to get out of the Marines all you had to do was state you wanted to go to Russia. He stated that he recalls one Marine in particular talking about OSWALD and indicating he knew him quite well. He stated that although the news article reporting his interview stated this man was from New Orleans he was actually from Baton Rouge and he, VANIDESTINE, had associated with him from about January, 1959 until he was discharged

in the spring of 1960. He stated this man was a Corporal when discharged and had been in Squadron 9, that he was then about age 22, 5'9", 180 pounds with blond hair. He stated he was single and drove a 1955 white Ford Tudor which he believes had Louisiana plates on it. He stated he associated with this individual a great deal, often going out with him socially and borrowing his car on a number of occasions but he cannot now recall his name and has no record of it. He states this Marine also associated with a member of the same Squadron named DANIEL O'CONNOR who has since been discharged and is employed by IBM, that he believes O'CONNOR resides in Inglewood, California. He stated that one GWEN MARTEN, whom VANIDESTINE often dated, would also know the name of the Marine from Baton Rouge. He stated GWEN, age about 30, 5'8-9", with dark hair had worked at the Pirates Den, Beer Bar at Santa Ana and her whereabouts will be known to a Mr. JACKSON, the proprietor. He stated that Captain BLOCK, first name unknown, and Colonel GREGORY, first name unknown, who were Operations Officer and Commanding officer respectively of Squadron 9 at the time might also know the identity of the Baton Rouge Marine.

He stated that the remarks made to him by this Marine were the basis of statements he made to the reporter about OSWALD talking of going to Russia and saying he was going to turn over confidential information when he got there, and it was possible such remarks were all made after the newspaper article appeared about OSWALD going to Russia. He stated that while he believes other Marines talked to him about OSWALD's attitude toward the Corps and toward Russia he cannot recall identity of such persons. He stated that he definitely did not work on any crew with OSWALD except for the work detail referred to and knew little or nothing about him personally, that statements made by him to the Appleton newspaper reporter were based on comments by the Baton Rouge Marine and possibly other Marines whose identity he does not recall.